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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

#### DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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COMPANY; and BRIGHTHOUSE SECURITIES, LLC,

Plaintiff.

GEORGE SCHMIDT, JR.; LINCOLN FINANCIAL ADVISORS CORPORATION; and LINCOLN FINANCIAL SECURITIES CORPORATION,

BRIGHTHOUSE LIFE INSURANCE

Defendant.

2:21-cv-01078-JCM-VCF

## <u>ORDER</u>

Before the court is Lincoln Financial Advisors Corporation's Motion to Extend Time to Serve George Schmidt Jr. (ECF NO. 81).

Crossclaimant Lincoln Financial Advisors Corporation (LFA) requests the Court for an order extending the time for LFA to serve crossdefendant George Schmidt Jr.

Plaintiffs filed their original Complaint on June 7, 2021. (ECF No. 1). Plaintiffs served LFA with the original Complaint on June 9, 2021. (ECF No. 7). Plaintiffs served Schmidt on July 1, 2021 by serving him at 52 Grant Blvd., Hampton Bays, New York 11946 ("NY Address"). (ECF No. 6). On November 9, 2021, Plaintiffs filed their First Amended Complaint. (ECF No. 15). On November 30, 2021, LFA moved to dismiss Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint. (ECF No. 20). On December 3, 2021, Plaintiffs served Schmidt with the First Amended Complaint at the same NY Address that they had served the original Complaint. (ECF No. 22). Schmidt's co-tenant and alleged girlfriend, Charlotte Bongiorno accepted service at the NY Address. On March 31, 2023, the Court granted in part and denied in part

LFA's Motion to Dismiss. (ECF No. 52). On May 24, 2023, LFA filed its Answer to the First Amended Complaint and also filed a Counterclaim, Crossclaim, and Third-Party Complaint. (ECF No. 59).

LFA filed a crossclaim against Schmidt. Under FRCP 4(m), the deadline to serve Schmidt is August 22, 2023. On July 6, 2023, LFA served Schmidt at the same NY Address that Plaintiffs' served him, and Bongiorno again accepted service for Schmidt. (ECF No. 73). On July 28, 2023, LFA states that Bongiorno left a voicemail for LFA's counsel stating that Schmidt did not receive the summons because he no longer lives at the NY address and is possibly incarcerated. On August 2, 2023, LFA's counsel's Nevada process server located Schmidt in a prison in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. (ECF NO. 81).

Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(m) requires a defendant to be served within 90 days after the complaint is filed. If "the plaintiff shows good cause for the failure [to serve a defendant within that time-frame], the court must extend the time for service for an appropriate period." Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(m).

LFA asserts that additional time is required to effect service, and asks this court to extend the 4(m) deadline up to and including November 20, 2023. (ECF NO. 81 at page 5).

Given that LFA has demonstrated "good cause" for its failure to effectuate service, the court will extend the 4(m) deadline, up to and including November 20, 2023. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(m).

Accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that LFA's Motion to Extend Time to Serve George Schmidt Jr. (ECF NO. 81), is GRANTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the deadline to effect service of process is extended up to and including November 20, 2023 for George Schmidt Jr.

DATED this 27th day of September 2023.

CAM FERENBACH

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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